

News From _____

U.S. Senator
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Byrd Directs Funding to First Responders

WASHINGTON, D.C.... U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., today announced that he has secured \$1 million under the Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology program to equip all Kanawha County Fire Departments with mobile and portable interoperable radios. Byrd, who is the senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, added the funding to the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations bill that President Obama signed into law today.

“Senator Byrd’s action will save lives in Kanawha County. We thank him. While some may call this an earmark, I call it a life-saving act,” stated Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper.

In addition, Byrd, working with Congressman Nick Rahall, secured \$3.4 million under the DOJ COPS Technology program for the West Virginia Sheriffs’ Association for visualization technology. This technology is an important tool of law enforcement, emergency response, and homeland security contingency planning throughout the State of West Virginia.

“Once again, Senator Byrd has come through for law enforcement in West Virginia,” added Kanawha County Sheriff Mike Rutherford, President of the West Virginia Sheriffs’ Association. “These funds will have a tremendous impact in protecting our citizens and our deputies. We deeply appreciate Senator Byrd, who has been our friend for so many years, for his long term commitment to public safety.”

“Having the most up-to-date equipment for our first responders is critical in helping to keep our local communities safe,” Byrd said. “Increasingly, emergency personnel are called upon to respond not only to fires and medical emergencies, but also to hazardous materials accidents, natural disasters, and to prepare for the potential for an attack on our homeland. This money to acquire radios and visualization technology will help increase the technological capabilities of these emergency and law enforcement personnel, ensuring quicker response times, and enhanced preparation opportunities in the event of a major disaster in our state or surrounding region.”

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